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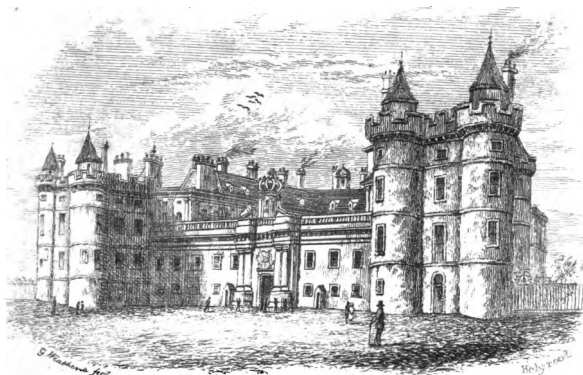
TOUR

THROUGH SOME PARTS

of

SCOTLAND:

*By Robert Hunter Junr.*



*London Simpkin, Marshall & Co. and R. Kirby, Whitby. 1859*

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## P R E F A C E .

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*It is with great diffidence that the author intrudes himself upon the public gaze ; but as every one is intended for some use to the community, he now appears before his readers, in the hope of furnishing a small contribution to the general good. Some are intended to plough the ocean, and convey the productions of the various climes, to supply the wants of the human family. Some are destined to cultivate the soil, for the same object ; while others, from the fibres of trees and plants, provide, by their ingenuity, articles of dress. It is the province of another class, to record what comes under their observation, for the improvement of society. The last of these is the author's object ; and if any of his remarks serve to gratify and improve his readers, and especially to lead them from nature up to nature's God, his labour will not have been useless.*

*He trusts that, as this is his first attempt, whatever blemishes may be found in the perusal, the volume will be treated with that in-*

*dulgence, which the readers would wish for their own writings, if perchance they appear before the public.*

*If this work is well received, he may again appear before his readers, if life and health permit; either to enlarge on the beauties of Scotland, or to give them some views of his own native land. To the last he may be supposed to be most partial; for he can say, in the language of an English Poet,*

*“England, with all thy faults, I love thee still.”*

*For the present, ladies and gentlemen,—perhaps he should say, young ladies and gentlemen,—of Whitby and its vicinity, the author must bid you adieu! May every blessing, both spiritual and temporal, be showered down upon you! May your festive board be always crowned with plenty; and, after a life of happiness and usefulness here, may you, and the author, enjoy a higher blessedness hereafter!*

*Whitby, June 5th, 1839.*

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# A TOUR, &c.

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## CHAPTER I.

*Left Whitby — The Vesta — Shields — Sail up the Tyne — Newcastle — The New Market — Arcade — St. Nicholas' Church — Castle — Library — Museum — Dialect — A Fish Wife — Collieries — Return to Shields — A Visit to Tynemouth — Voyage to Leith.*

I left Whitby on Wednesday, 21st June, 1837, in company with two near relatives, in order, once more, to traverse the picturesque and romantic country of Scotland. Having visited it before, I felt a strong desire to return, to survey and contemplate its fine scenery, and be the better able to delineate the beauties of that portion of far-famed Britain. It was a delightful evening in which we embarked on board the Steamer—the air was still—the ocean, unruffled by the breeze, presented a surface smooth as glass, while all nature seemed sunk in repose, and was in a state of soothing quiescence. In such circumstances, the most timid traveller might have committed him-



self to the bosom of the deep without dismay, and regarded the perils of steam navigation as old wives' fables.

Nothing can be more delightful than to be at sea in a still evening, when the mighty ocean is at rest, and offers no obstruction to the vessel's progress, but on the contrary, as if invites it to roam at will on its glassy surface; while during the day it repels or neutralizes the scorching rays of the sun. We were conveyed to the Steamer in a small boat. On such occasions there is often no small danger, arising from the too great number of passengers. There ought certainly to be a fine imposed, as in the case of land conveyances, when the boatmen presume to take more than a specified number. Every life is more or less valuable, and ought to be protected by the laws of the country. But it would appear that, while coachmen are often severely fined for taking on more than their licensed compliment, boatmen may take as many passengers as they please; as if death by drowning were a much less evil than death by getting a broken neck.

In the boat there was a gentleman of an inquisitive turn, who wished to get information respecting our harbour and pier.

To one acquainted with such objects, the questions put by strangers often appear frivolous, while, at the same time, it must be admitted that no question ought to be considered as such which tends to elicit information ; and queries, trifling and unimportant in themselves, are often highly serviceable as connecting links in the chain of conversation, or as pioneers to others of more weighty import. And hence a few simple questions, put perhaps at random and without much thought, have often led to important results. Another of the passengers, a female, occasionally uttered a mournful cry; but why, I could not learn. We soon however reached the Packet, and saw our luggage safely deposited on board. Soon did the vapoury power begin to operate upon the engine, and the paddle wheels to strike the yielding, but at the same time resisting element, and cause the vessel to pass over its surface like a thing of life ; and thus Whitby was soon left far in the rear. It is not uncommon to find the passengers amusing themselves with cards or draughts, while those, who have no taste for such games, may spend their time more profitably by taking down a book from the small

library, with which steamers are generally furnished, or by entering into conversation with those on board.

The vessel in which we embarked was called the *Vesta*:—she is a very fine packet, having a neat cabin, and every accommodation for the company. The fore part, usually termed the steerage, is intended for those who are either unable or unwilling to pay cabin fares. The accommodation here is inferior, and the passengers are more exposed to the heat of the engine, which has a sickening effect:—here too the requisite cooking goes on.

Two ladies caught my attention. I kept walking the deck for some time, in order to ascertain the expression of their countenances; for, though I do not put much faith in the pretended revelations of either physiognomy or phrenology, yet I think a good deal may be learned in reference to character, by narrowly observing the countenance, when the person is engaged in conversation. A cheerful smiling countenance, for example, may be regarded as a sure mark of a good disposition:—there may however be exceptions; the smiles of some being only assumed, and hence are only indications of hypocrisy.

It is much more pleasant sailing when the vessel keeps close to the land ; for then the passengers have an opportunity of viewing the coast, though on a rocky shore this may sometimes be dangerous. Our Steamer kept a long way from land after leaving Whitby : while on our return, for a considerable part of our way, we lost sight of *terra firma* altogether, having nothing on which to gaze but the wide expanse of water. Sometimes the idea of the machinery not being sufficiently strong to last the whole voyage, would cross my mind ; and certainly such apprehensions, when we consider the frequent steam boat accidents that take place, are not without grounds. By proper care and management, however, sailing by steam may be rendered perfectly safe. One reason I apprehend why so many of such vessels have of late given way is, that not a few of them have become old, while the owners are unwilling to be at the requisite expense of repairing them.

It is, however, a consoling truth, that whether by land or sea, whether on the mountain top or in the midst of the ocean, we are under the guidance and protection of a kind providence ; while, at the same time,

it is our duty to adopt proper precautions for our safety, and not, with fool-hardy temerity, expose ourselves to danger, under the notion that we shall be safe. If it be true, as it undoubtedly is, that all events happen according to divine appointment, and for some wise end, it follows that when an explosion by steam does take place, the omniscient Creator has some purpose to serve by it. It forms a link in the wondrous chain of his providential arrangements.

The distance from Whitby to Shields by water, is about forty miles, being twenty-six miles nearer than by land. In approaching Tynemouth, a bathing place, we looked out with great anxiety for the castle, it being the most prominent object; and when it came in sight, we anxiously watched the active motions of the paddle wheels, as each stroke brought us so much nearer to the wished-for point. At last our steamer turned in, and proceeded up the Tyne:—the sun had sunk below the horizon, and hence the light had now become exceedingly faint. On landing, it is of importance that each person have his eyes about him, lest he lose sight of his luggage. As I was standing on deck, a man desirous of earning a few

pence, accosted me with these words — “A boat, sir? A boat, sir?” A great deal of caution is required in rowing a boat on the Tyne, especially after the sun has set, to avoid coming in contact with some of the numerous vessels. Instead of being taken to the principal landing-place, we were landed at an alley or yard. The first thing that attracted my attention, in approaching it, was the sound of some merry-making in a public house : — whether it was caused by intoxication, or the tricks of some juggler, I could not learn — the greeting was not very pleasant to strangers, and, I should imagine, such boisterous and coarse merriment would be offensive to those living in the vicinity. On landing, we felt ourselves quite at a stand, — there being no one to take our luggage : — we stopped a few minutes to hold a council in the emergency. It would have made the inhabitants smile, to have seen us standing at the bottom of an alley with three portmanteaus at our feet : — at last two men came to our aid, and took them to an inn. Private lodgings are preferable to an inn; but when one is a bird of passage, as I was at Shields, he is obliged to conform to circumstances. In travelling, it is much more

pleasant to have an agreeable companion, than to be alone. It is unpleasant to be put into a room full of strangers, for you know not with whom you are associating; while if you do get acquainted, a friendship is no sooner formed than it must be broken by a speedy and abrupt departure. It is often not a little amusing to enter a travellers' room, and hear individuals give utterance to a great variety of opinions, supporting them at the same time by various arguments. After ordering something to support the outer man, our party sauntered about the town. There is implanted in human nature a desire of novelty, and a wish to behold that which we have never seen before — the gratification of which yields no small degree of pleasure.

Shields may be denominated a quiet place. It is worthy of remark, that a town may appear neat and interesting at one time, and the reverse at another, according as the weather is favourable or unfavourable. A town, for example, has quite a different appearance, and produces quite a different impression upon a stranger, when the sun is shining in unclouded splendour, from what it does when that luminary lies concealed



under a cloudy atmosphere, or when the clouds are pouring forth torrents of rain. Again, one town may be viewed shortly after the traveller has inspected another of greater dimensions, and superior architecture, and must hence appear in his eye to great disadvantage; while an individual, conversant only with towns similar or inferior to itself, may admire it as both beautiful and spacious. Shields has, from small beginnings, gradually increased till it has reached its present size. It has not a parish church, though one appears at the top of the town, which to a stranger seems to belong to Shields; but, though at the outskirts of that town, it is in the parish of Tynemouth. It would be well if this church were appropriated to the use of the large population of this sea port, and another erected and endowed for the use of the inhabitants of Tynemouth. The traffic on the Tyne is so great as to give employment to steamers, in plying between Shields and Newcastle every half hour; and, so far as I could observe, they appeared to be generally well filled with passengers. There is the greatest punctuality in the time of sailing, each boat starting precisely at the hour; so that if any one be a minute too late, he

must wait till the next boat starts. This is as it should be. The fare is exceedingly moderate—only sixpence is charged for a distance of ten miles; although I shall have occasion to allude to even cheaper sailing on board some of the steamers. It is exceedingly common to have a performer on the violin constantly on board, whose music, though perhaps not always of the first order, nevertheless sounds sweetly on the water, and furnishes a very agreeable variety, which relieves the otherwise dull monotony. At the close of the trip, he petitions for a small recompense by holding out his hat.

Several villages attract attention as you proceed up the river. In approaching Newcastle the traveller is struck with the fine steeple of St. Nicholas's church. Newcastle is well worth the visit of a stranger. The old part of the town has certainly no great attractions, but the modern buildings are both numerous, and many of them in the highest degree elegant. It is not uncommon for persons to feel disappointed in first seeing a place, in consequence of their having formed too high expectations;—it is possible that this may be the case with many who first visit Newcastle. But the improvements

are upon a grand and magnificent scale, and cannot fail to draw admiration from every visitor of this ancient town :— they certainly do great honour to Mr. Grainger, the originator and promoter of them, who, by his wealth and public spirit combined, has improved his native town in a manner and to an extent which scarcely any other single individual could have done. The new market is a fine building—it extends over a large surface of ground—it contains two fountains :—the architecture is beautiful, and it is altogether an interesting place. Would there were many individuals in Britain, thus willing to dispose of a portion of their wealth, for the purpose of promoting public improvements. By so doing, the interests of trade and commerce, as well as the general happiness, are promoted. But it is to be lamented, that most men live only as if for themselves — their views are too contracted to admit of their doing much for the good of others. When, however, men of noble and generous minds do arise, and exert themselves for the public good, they ought to be hailed as public benefactors, and some tablet erected, to commemorate their character and deeds, that descending generations

may learn to whom they owe many of the advantages they enjoy, and that others may be stimulated to similar efforts. The arcade next demands a passing notice. It may be described as a street roofed in with glass;—having a range of elegant shops, of all sorts, on each side, and the Post Office in one of the extremities. It must furnish a very convenient and agreeable shelter and promenade, in wet weather.

The church of St. Nicholas is a splendid edifice, no person of ordinary feelings can enter it, without being struck with its magnificence: you do not, as in most places, see the part where the congregation worship—but a long empty structure with noble pillars to uphold the roof, while the attention is attracted by a variety of monuments. The visitor is thereby reminded of his own insignificance; for if the great and illustrious are unable to ward off the stroke of death, how much less must ordinary men be so.—The inscriptions which these monuments present also forcibly tell us, that death knocks equally at the palaces or halls of the great, and the cottages of the poor. The church has an excellent set of bells:—I had an opportunity of hearing them on Holy Thursday, on a former visit

to Newcastle. On that day the Corporation of Newcastle, arrayed in their official dresses, sailed up the river in boats. I had not the pleasure of seeing them land, but they were welcomed to the shore by a salute of guns from the castle. The latter, from which the town derives its name, does not, as might be expected, occupy a conspicuous place, but is situated near the centre, and surrounded by houses; so that a stranger requires first to be told that there exists such a building—he must next ask where it is, and then thread his way to it, if he wishes to obtain a proper view of it. The library and museum are well worth visiting. The building which contains them, is a very beautiful structure. The hall is very spacious, while the staircase has about it an air of grandeur. The room containing the library, is very large—the books are divided into various classes—a plan very much to be recommended. A good library is unquestionably of great advantage to a town; books forming a chief medium of conveying knowledge. It is at the same time true, that scarcely two individuals view the statements which they may read, exactly in the same light—while, in perusing different authors, attention ought

to be paid to the principles and spirit of the writers. An author of a sour and sarcastic temper, for example, is exceedingly apt, and can scarcely fail, to give an unfavourable description of persons or places, for he will be ever more or less disposed to gratify his humour in finding fault ; while a writer who is pleased with every thing, is sure to err on the side of charity.

The museum is too confined, the specimens would be shown to more advantage were the rooms longer. Stuffed birds add greatly to the beauty of a museum, while the eye is delighted with varieties of minerals, and the mind instructed by foreign curiosities, illustrative of the manners and customs that prevail in different quarters of the globe. Those, however, who take a pleasure in the study of antiquities, will be peculiarly gratified with the mummies, and ancient tombstones, contained in the collection. In contemplating such objects, the reflecting mind cannot fail to think of the great and numerous changes of which the earth has been the scene—the rise and fall of kingdoms and empires, and the bloody and desolating wars that have been carried on, since these relics of the world's infancy first existed.

We inspected the lecture room. It is a neat place, the benches are gradually elevated as they recede from the speaker, and thus form a sort of amphitheatre.

The Northumbrian accent is quite peculiar, at least it appears so to those from other counties. It is not easy for strangers to understand the conversation of the lower classes of Northumberland; although it must be confessed, that the natives of Yorkshire have also their peculiarities. The Northumbrians have a peculiar mode of sounding the letter *r*, usually called a *burr*. The tenacity with which a country, or county, or locality, retains its various established customs — its language and mode of speaking, strikingly shews the power of early education, and the influence which parents have in training their children, either to good or bad habits. The rising generation will be in a great measure what the previous one makes it.

Among other curiosities in Newcastle, may be mentioned one of that refined class denominated fish wives, whose wealth is such that she can afford to keep a carriage, but who, nevertheless, takes her place at the stall along with the rest of the sisterhood. The wealth of individuals cannot always be esti-

mated by the station they occupy in society : — some who roll in riches live very retired, and far removed from gaiety ; while others in very moderate circumstances, aim at making a great display in the world.

The country in the vicinity of Newcastle seems barren and not well cultivated — the district however known by the name, “Vale of Hexham,” must be excepted. Good land is seldom found where coals abound. It is well known that this is the region of collieries. Man has often been described as the creature of circumstances — were he not so, it is difficult to conceive, how individuals can voluntarily and cheerfully deprive themselves of the pleasure of beholding the light of the sun for so long a period, in order to work under ground. Newcastle is a place by no means adapted to the aged, or to invalids, many of its streets being very steep. The common lies at the north side of the town : on this each burgess has the privilege of grazing a cow.

We left in the afternoon, and returned to Shields by the same route we took in the morning. In order to produce lasting impressions, objects ought to be frequently viewed and considered—the mind may be



struck with something at a second sight, which was formerly quite unnoticed. In the evening we visited Tynemouth, a place much frequented by visitors during the summer. At that sultry season of the year, it must afford a very agreeable change to those who live in the interior, to enjoy the refreshing coolness of the sea breeze, by sauntering on the beach. Tynemouth is a small and quiet place, with the remains of a castle on the south side of it. There are a few soldiers stationed at it. One of these keeps a sort of tap room, and supplies ginger beer to such as may fancy it. We availed ourselves of the refreshing but unintoxicating beverage — but the room was so fumigated with emanations from the tobacco pipe, that we had no wish to remain long. I was astonished to find a burying ground close to the castle, without any church. The town is well suited for those who wish to live in retirement from the bustle of the world, and spend a portion of their time in amusing or instructive reading.

The walk between Shields and Tynemouth is very short, so that the inhabitants of the former will often, in the cool of the evening, visit the latter to see the strangers. No one,

at our tavern, could give us any information about the sailing of the *Vesta* for Leith — we therefore had our luggage conveyed to an inn on the quay, where we would be in sight of her, as she passed down the river. But, alas! when we reached the quay, we could find no admittance at the inn. The servants seemed to have been so much under the power of Morpheus, that they had no power of locomotion until we astounded their drowsy organs by several loud raps. The door at last opened — but, to our astonishment, we were told that the steamer had sailed several hours ago. But here let it be carefully noted, that innkeepers and their dependants speak in a language peculiarly their own, and which is not to be explained according to the ordinary acceptance of the terms, when the subject of *leaving* a place is under description. Not choosing to interpret the statement just made to us according to its exact literal import, but regarding it as a circumlocution for “you will have to lodge with us,” we waited in expectation of soon seeing the *Vesta* pass down the river, with the colour hoisted as a signal to embark. We found, however, that she had gone down early in the morning, to save the tide, and

was waiting at Tynemouth bar. We were conveyed to her by a steamer of smaller dimensions — when on board of which we incurred some danger, in consequence of the too great number of passengers. We had a very large company on board, several of whom seemed to have been young lads returning home at vacation time. It is less pleasant travelling by water, than by land, in consequence of the want of variety, and constant sameness in the scenery. When on board the packet, especially when a long way out at sea, nothing is to be seen all around but the briny deep, ever and anon presenting itself to the eye with unbroken continuity — look where you may — to the right or left — abaft or ahead, nothing meets the gaze but the sea — the sea ; — while the splashing of the paddle-wheels is constantly assailing the ear. In travelling on the top of a coach, on the contrary, there is always something new to attract the attention.

When a large party sit down to dinner in a steamer, you are strongly reminded, that you are not at home : — it becomes necessary for every one to look out for himself, without being particularly scrupulous as to the rules of etiquette.

No small interest is felt by travellers, in approaching a country which they have never before visited. It is with feelings of peculiar pleasure, that Englishmen cross the border which separates North and South Britain — they cannot fail to look back, and recal the time when animosity and strife divided the two ancient kingdoms, and especially those residing near the boundary — and contrast the former state of anarchy and comparative barbarism, with the present state of order and concord, and progressive civilization. Now the humblest peasant can go forth to cultivate his fields, and, after finishing his labour, can repose in the bosom of his family, without being alarmed by the din of war, or the sound of battle.

Having a few shooters on board, who were watching for an opportunity to try their dexterity, part of the company were amused in seeing them point their pieces to a high perpendicular rock, named the Bass, famed for its being the chosen residence of the solan goose — a fowl found only here and on Ailsa Cragg, another rock on the west coast of Scotland. — The Bass is much frequented in summer by parties of pleasure;

it is the property of one of the nobility, and is let to an individual, who gains a livelihood by killing and selling the geese, and conveying visitors to and from the rock, which is about a mile from the shore. The birds no sooner heard the report of the guns, than they flew up from their resting places—it was the season of hatching their young. Though some appear to have a pleasure in following such sport, yet it can certainly afford no real enjoyment, to see these unoffending animals fall victims to our mere love of killing them.

## CHAPTER II.

*Edinburgh — Scottish Customs — Religion — Education —  
Death of the King — Proclamation of Queen Victoria —  
Soirée — Public Meeting of the electors to hear the addresses  
of Mr. Abercromby and Sir John Campbell — The radicals  
dissatisfied — Temperance Meeting — Abolition of Slavery —  
Mr. George Thompson — Regatta — Cavalry.*

At sea, one can form no correct idea of distances, in consequence of the want of intervening objects, on which the eye may rest. It gave us no small pleasure to see Leith harbour, when it came in view; but it was much more distant than inexperienced navigators would have supposed—it was therefore long in sight before we reached it. We at last found ourselves in the far-famed Scottish metropolis. What shall I say of it? How shall I describe it? Edinburgh has been termed the modern Athens. Its public buildings—its private houses—its squares—its crescents—its ornamental pleasure grounds, beautify the city to such a degree as to render it superior to every other place I have seen. Winter is the time for seeing it to greatest advantage, for then all the inhabitants are at home, and then the

students, amounting to nearly two thousand, are attending the University. Those desirous of amusement, may find it in every variety during the winter season. If a person be fond of music, there are concerts—if he delights in the marvellous, there are jugglers with their numerous and astonishing tricks—if desirous of light gay company, there are parties or assemblies, in which the evenings are spent in tripping it on the light fantastic toe.

The Scots are distinguished for their hospitality to strangers. Their customs, at table, differ from ours. One of these is the taking of a *dram* after dinner, and especially after eating fish, and before the desert—a small glass is generally used for this special purpose. The cheese is then sent round, and ale or porter served out according to choice—the former in long narrow glasses used for no other purpose, and the latter in tumblers. In a large dinner party, the ladies, after taking a single glass of wine with the gentlemen, retire shortly after dinner, to another room, to sip the beverage which “cheers but not inebriates,” while the gentlemen are discussing their wine:—the latter then drop in, one by one, as if drawn by the

attractive influence of the ladies, and as if to say, "We must be where you are — your tea and your society are much better than our wine." Jellies and jam are generally used at the tea-table, with slices of bread and butter much thicker than what are common with us. The tea cake, of which the Whitby people are so fond, is unknown in Scotland; and, were it placed upon the table, or handed round by the beaux, would be regarded as a curiosity. The butter, too, is kept perfectly free from salt, except when prepared for keeping.

Dancing is a favourite diversion — almost every evening party has a dance, when the piano-forte is in requisition. The Scotch proverbs too, often form a fertile source of amusement in these parties. Each of the company is required to repeat a proverb, or tell a story, or sing a song : — those who fail, must pay a forfeit, and a good deal of merriment frequently arises from crying the forfeits. The following are specimens of the proverbs : — "ye canna gut fish till ye get them" — "toom barrels mak meikle din" — "they hae need o a lang spoon that sup wi' the deil."



Let me now say something regarding religion. The church of Scotland, usually called the kirk, is established by law, and is trying, like our English church, to promote the welfare and happiness of the community. Its benign influence must be felt by all with whom it comes in contact. Though I belong to the church of England, and admire its liturgy, and love its doctrines, yet I would not cherish an uncharitable thought or feeling towards those who hold different views. There is no difference of rank among the ministers of the Scottish church. As is well known, its government is Presbyterian. According to this form, each congregation is governed by the minister, and those who have been chosen and ordained to act as elders, who along with him form what is called *the session*. The ministers of a district, with an elder from each parish, form a Presbytery. A number of Presbyteries meeting together form a Synod. And the General Assembly, which is the supreme church court, is composed of delegates from each Presbytery. It meets annually in Edinburgh. The Assembly's commission, that is, a committee appointed to transact business in its name, meets more frequently.

Every true friend of Christ will rejoice in the progress of christianity, by whatever denomination it may be promoted. The Secession church sprung up about a century ago, in consequence of ministers being forcibly settled in parishes by the law of patronage. The Relief church constitutes another pretty numerous body of dissenters—it is in almost every respect similar to the one just mentioned, and had a similar origin. Negotiations are now going on between these bodies with a view to a union, which, in all probability, will ere long be consummated. The Episcopalians seem to rank next in order as to numbers—they, like the bodies just mentioned, are increasing—they consist chiefly of the genteel class. There are however two sects of this name—there are English and Scotch Episcopalians. Several of the Scotch admit that our liturgy contains many beauties. What, for example, can be more likely to raise our thoughts from terrestrial to heavenly objects, than *Te Deum laudamus*, repeated between the two lessons in the morning service; while, in the litany, there are simple but beautifully comprehensive petitions, adapted to all classes and conditions. In some of the chapels, the dis-

course is omitted on the first sabbath of the month, that time may be allowed for celebrating the communion.

There is another class of dissenters called the reformed Presbytery, or Cameronians, from the name of its founder Richard Cameron. Besides these, there are also Independents, Methodists, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Glassites, Bereans, Irvingites, &c.; but these are comparatively few. The Lord's day is observed by the Scotch with great strictness. At the times of assembling for worship and dismissing, the streets are crowded, while at other hours they are almost entirely empty. In the Presbyterian churches, the Precentor, as he is called, or Clerk as we would say, starts the tune by singing the first line alone—he is then joined by the congregation, although when there is a band of singers, the music is almost entirely left to themselves. It is certainly the duty of every one to acquire as much skill in singing as to be able to lift up his voice in praising his Creator and Redeemer. In almost all the Presbyterian congregations, the people sit in time of singing, and stand during prayer. The united Secession church consists of nineteen Presbyteries in Scotland, besides three

in England. A Presbytery, as stated above, consists of all the ministers in a district, together with an elder from each congregation, and is more or less numerous according as the congregations are thickly or thinly planted. Many of these Presbyteries meet once a month for business within their respective spheres, while they all meet together once a year in Edinburgh, or sometimes in Glasgow, for business connected with the various home and foreign missions, and other matters of general interest. This aggregate assembly is called a Synod, and constitutes the supreme church court. It is an established practice in all the Presbyterian congregations, whether parochial or dissenting, to observe the wednesday or thursday, previous to the sabbath on which the Lord's supper is dispensed, as a fast-day. This is generally done twice in the year, although in many parishes only once. No dissenting congregation, however, observes the above ordinance seldomer than twice in the year — a considerable number of them observe it quarterly, and some oftener ; and the desire for frequent communicating is increasing, and the duty of it more clearly seen.

The Scotch are a well educated people, especially in Edinburgh, where every advantage for obtaining education in every department is enjoyed. Those young ladies who have got what is called a good education, can run their hand with ease over the piano-forte, and read French.

During my stay in the Scottish metropolis, I had the pleasure of attending the annual examination of some French classes, and must say that I felt highly gratified with the manner in which it was conducted. The eye was almost dazzled in beholding a platform filled with young Misses, each dressed in white with a rose in her breast. They did not seem at all daunted, though the room was full of company, assembled to hear how they would acquit themselves. Two young ladies, who seemed to hold the first places, were each required to compose an essay in French, on any subject taken from ancient or modern history. This trial of proficiency was conducted thus :—a number of blank pieces of paper were distributed among the company, upon one of which each was requested to write a subject. Each of the young ladies was required to produce an essay, of eight pages, on one of the sub-

jects thus furnished, to be read by the authoress before the conclusion of the examination. The essays were produced, and given to one who understood the language, to keep twenty-four hours. Several of the other pupils translated French fluently, from books they had never before seen. The exhibition continued two days. The interest felt did not seem to abate. The French master shewed, in his manner, the characteristic vivacity and sprightliness of his native country. At the close of each day's examination, several prizes were awarded ; and, when the whole terminated, the hearts of the young Misses would doubtless beat with joy, at the result of many months of assiduous study. Days and perhaps nights had been spent by some of them, under the influence of an honourable desire to excel, in preparing their lessons, while their bodies were perhaps scarcely equal to the task ; but now have they the pleasure of receiving, with bowing head and modest mien, but joyful heart and smiling countenance, the medal of approbation. Parents would doubtless be highly gratified at beholding their children so acquit themselves, and would feel grateful that they had such offspring. Several, if not all,

would ere long retire to the country, for some weeks, to inhale its pure and bracing air; and thus recruit their strength for resuming their studies, and ascending still higher up the hill of Parnassus. In wandering across hill and dale, and surveying rural scenery and occupations, their minds would be free from care, and thus would their spirits be elevated.

There is a class for each department, which meets at a certain hour, when the teacher devotes his whole attention to that class and the branch taught in it. The business of education is thus conducted with greater efficiency, than when several classes meet together at the same hour and in the same room.

Politically speaking, the King of Britain never dies—this however, like that other statement, that the King can do no wrong, is only a political fiction—Princes are mortal like all other men. This solemn truth, so humbling to regal pomp and dignity, has been of late years oftener than once impressed upon the nation's attention. Lately we had an aged King, now we have a youthful Queen swaying the British sceptre. The demise of our late Sovereign happened when I was in Edinburgh. For some time, it was

known only as an uncertain report, till at last its reality was ascertained, by the London newspapers, and indicated to the eye by their columns being edged with black. A considerable damp is thrown over the country when its Head sinks into the tomb, especially if he has been respected and esteemed by his subjects. King William the fourth is no more — and therefore his character is now in the hands of the historian. When death is in the palace, and wielding the sceptre over royalty itself, and transferring all its attendant greatness and magnificence to a successor; an important lesson may be learned by the nobles in our land, as well as by all who thirst after, or glory in the trappings of earthly greatness. Every thing seems to remind you of the solemn event. In every shop window, where every thing beautiful and ornamental is usually displayed, now appear chiefly emblems of mortality. He, at whose approach all Britain would lately have paid obeisance, now lies in all the stillness of death; and, after the vain, but nevertheless, instructive show of *lying in state*, would soon disappear from mortal eyes.



While, however, we deplore the death of our late Sovereign, we would hail with delight her who has succeeded, and who now wields the sceptre. Her age, her sex, and her rank combine to invest her with a peculiar interest. May she be long spared to be a blessing to the country and an honour to Royal blood! and, when she departs from earth, may she, through grace, be gathered to her fathers like a sheaf of corn fully ripe, with the assurance of a blessed and glorious immortality — on laying aside an earthly, may she put on a heavenly crown!

Most of the people in Edinburgh were astir, on the day of her proclamation, long before the appointed hour. The High Street, where the ceremony was to take place, was crowded with spectators. Every window was filled, while some got access to the top of St. Giles's church. The ringing of the bells, and the firing of the guns in the Castle, announced the object of the vast assemblage. At last the procession began to move — some on horseback, others on foot. Officers and their dragoons — judges and lawyers — magistrates and people — in short, all orders turned out to do honour to the youthful Queen.

I had the pleasure of attending a Soirée before I left town. A Soirée is an evening entertainment, and is only another name for a public tea party. The one which I attended was connected with the young men's society, the object of which is most praiseworthy. This society sends forth agents to visit the indigent, and do them all the good in their power. We were provided with tea and cake, and, as the evening advanced, with fruits and lemonade, for the sustenance and refreshment of the body; and speeches for the nourishment of the mind — all too at a moderate price. Instead of the usual display of a tea equipage, stewards were appointed to supply the company from *cans*, which contained a quantity of uninebriating beverage, previously prepared. The evening was spent very profitably. The proceedings of the society were explained by the different speakers, and many interesting and useful topics introduced, calculated to expand and improve the mind. The bosoms of the young men will, doubtless, heave with delight, when they think of the interest that is taken in their society, and the good they are enabled to effect. Often have they, doubtless, afforded comfort to an aged widow who has been

deprived of every earthly stay, and held forth the cup of consolation to the afflicted. To families in distress, when perhaps no eye beheld them, except that of the Almighty, have they gone, carrying in one hand an earthly, and in the other a spiritual blessing. At the conclusion of such a meeting, the young men would be encouraged to go forward in prosecuting their benevolent labours, and, at next meeting, it is hoped they will be able to speak of still greater achievements.

During my stay in Edinburgh, the elections were in progress.—I heard the speeches of Mr. Abercromby, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Sir John Campbell, her Majesty's Attorney General, the two members for the city. The place where the meeting was held was crowded, with those anxious both to see and hear their late representatives, who had again come forward as candidates. The wished for hour arrived, and they entered the room amid loud cheers. On such occasions, and amid conflicting opinions, it is impossible for the most talented and popular individuals to please all parties. After every effort has been made to please, many will still grumble and feel dissatisfied. Some allow their opinions to be regulated

by their self-interest — others wish to make a compromise between principle and interest — few act or think wholly from principle. It is possible, however, for individuals of all classes to have the good of the community at heart. What one thinks beneficial, another may conscientiously consider to be injurious; and hence persons whose opinions are directly opposite may, nevertheless, act from principle. The greatest stillness ought to prevail when speakers are addressing a public audience. Mr. Abercromby is a gentleman of a very venerable appearance, and, distinguished as he is for candour and integrity, in listening to him the injunction ought to be observed, “Honour the hoary head.” Those who hold opinions different from those of the speaker, have no right to cause noise and confusion — if they cannot assent to what is said, let them wait till the speech is concluded, and then state their views.

Sir John Campbell is a fine speaker, and one that is likely to draw attention. Both, however, spoke in favour of a church establishment; especially the latter. Whenever that subject was adverted to, it seemed the signal for uproar — some hissed, others applauded. Liberty is much talked of in the

present day, and slavery denounced ; but is it not a species of slavery, to prevent men of talent and worth from fully delivering their sentiments, at a time when a meeting has been assembled for that special purpose ? A few radicals were posted in the window opposite the speakers, each having a slip of paper in his hand, to help his memory by taking notes. At the close, availing themselves of their papers, they questioned the candidates in reference to their sentiments regarding the ballot, household suffrage, and other similar topics. The answers given were not satisfactory, for in the afternoon, when passing along the street, I saw placards pasted on the walls in every direction, calling a meeting to be held on the Calton Hill in the evening. When people wish to agitate, they are sure to have plenty of followers. In the course of a fortnight, they made preparations for a procession, in order to render themselves as conspicuous as possible, which closed with a social entertainment in the evening.

I attended a meeting of a Temperance Society. These associations are truly deserving of every encouragement, for they have proved highly beneficial to the commu-

nity, and are certainly an honour to the working classes, who form the chief portion of their members. In passing along the street, I observed a female stretched along the ground in a state of intoxication, — she had to be removed by the police. It is sufficiently melancholy to see a man in that state, how much more a female! What is it but the possession of an intelligent and immortal principle, that makes man differ from the lower creation? If he possesses a soul, that will exist

“Amid the wreck of matter, and the crush of worlds,”

Does he not profane his own nature, by indulging in sensual gratification at the expense of intellectual culture and enjoyment? It is highly gratifying to think, that, by means of Temperance Societies, many confirmed drunkards have been reclaimed, and, from being the disgrace, have become the ornaments of their respective circles. The speakers at the meeting I attended were tradesmen, and hence, from my not being acquainted with the Scotch dialect, I was unable to understand them; the attendance, however, was good, and a great interest seemed to be taken in the subject. If every individual

were to abstain from intoxicating drinks, what a blissful change would be produced in our land! Disease would be diminished to a degree beyond conception — our poor-houses, as well as lunatic asylums, would be comparatively empty — our criminal courts would become, to a great extent, useless, while morality and religion would prosper.

Let me now advert to another species of slavery; I mean that of the negro in our West Indian colonies. During my stay in Edinburgh, I had an opportunity of hearing Mr. George Thompson, who has distinguished himself as one of the most powerful and eloquent advocates of emancipation, speak at a public meeting, on the immediate abolition of the apprenticeship system. This gentleman's name cannot be mentioned without at once thinking of the horrors of slavery in all its forms — of human beings, having a nature and hearts like our own, often treated worse than the brutes. And yet, strange to tell, slavery has its advocates. But let every such advocate be dragged from our shores — carried to the land of slavery — deprived of his liberty — scourged and maltreated, at the caprice of a brutal task-master; and then let the question be put to

him—what do you think of slavery? Mr. T. has not only spoken against the diabolical system at home, but he has exposed himself to the greatest hazard, by crossing the Atlantic, and attacking it in the United States, where, boasted land of freedom though it be, it still unhappily exists in fearful inveteracy. Several of the statements he made were enough to make any one shudder. An Address to her Majesty was subscribed by a number at the close of the meeting. Our young Queen will, no doubt, feel delighted, that she has it in her power to aid the cause of freedom, and fill the bosoms of so many fellow-creatures with joy and gladness.

I had an opportunity of witnessing a regatta or boat race, at Newhaven, a small fishing town, about a mile from Leith. There was a large concourse of people assembled on the occasion—but from my being a stranger, and not knowing the owners of the boats, I felt little interest in the proceedings. On another occasion, I witnessed the yeomanry cavalry on exercise, at Portobello:—the sands, being both extensive and firm, were well adapted for the purpose. There were to be seen youths and Dianas, witnessing the scene.



## CHAPTER III.

*The Buildings in the Scottish Metropolis — The Castle — St. Giles' Church — Holyrood House — College — Museum — Surgeons' Hall — Heriot's Hospital — Parliament Square — Arthur's Seat — Objects on Calton Hill — Burns' Monument — Bridewell — Jail — Post-Office — Panorama — Diorama — Botanical Garden — Dalkeith — Duke of Buccleuch's Seat — Martyrs' Tomb — Stockbridge.*

The new town of Edinburgh is built with great regularity, and according to a handsome plan : — it has been called a city of palaces. The houses are constructed of a beautiful white freestone found in the neighbourhood, and many of them cannot be surpassed for architectural beauty. The streets are wide and spacious, and intersect each other at right angles ; while many of them terminate in a large square, and sometimes a crescent, the centre of which is laid out as pleasure ground. In company with some of my Edinburgh friends, I enjoyed a walk in the Prince's Street gardens — a place which seems filled with lovers' bowers.

The houses consist of three, four, and even five stories, and are divided into flats. At the street door, there is a bell for each flat,

or rather half flat — two families often occupying one ; so that in some streets it is common to see six or eight bell handles at each door, with the name on each. The servant can open the street door without coming down stairs ; so that the door opens as if by magic. The old town has no regularity in its streets, except in such as have been lately built. The High Street, the lower part of which is called the Canongate, has a magnificent appearance. Some of the houses here are ten or twelve stories high. The Castle stands at the top, and the Palace of Holyrood house at the bottom. St. Giles' Church, which contains three places of worship : — the Parliament house and buildings connected with it, the Advocates' Library, and County Buildings, are on the left in going up towards the Castle. The Church is the most conspicuous object, and gives the street a noble appearance. Its top is shaped like a crown : — it has a set of musical bells, which ring every day at two o'clock. The new town is separated from the old by a valley, with a bridge over it, under which there is the green market, which, to those looking over the bridge at an early hour during the fruit season, presents a very busy

scene. The huge rock, on which the Castle stands, has a very majestic appearance as seen from Prince's Street. In these times of peace, however, this warlike fortification serves rather for ornament than use. The period has happily passed away, when castles were considered as the strongholds of the country, and their artillery employed to pour forth death on assailing enemies. Happy Britain! long mayest thou be free from the assault of a foe; even till that period when the angel will proclaim that there shall be time no longer!

Holyrood house, (*See Vignette*) the chief of the ancient Scottish palaces, now comes under my observation. It has four sides, forming a square, and in the interior is surrounded by a piazza. It has a very antique appearance. Here, Mary Queen of Scots resided. Her apartments, including bed and bedroom, with the small basket that held the clothes of her son, James VI of Scotland, or I of England, when a child, are shewn to visitors. A small cabinet that belonged to her, is to be seen in the Whitby Museum. The dark passage, where Rizzio, an Italian musician, and her favourite, was assassinated, is also shewn. What must have been

the Queen's feelings, to behold, while seated at supper with this individual, a masked band instantly rush into the apartment, drag the latter forth, and despatch him! Surely her own wickedness in being accessory to the death of Darnley, her late husband, could not fail to sting her conscience. The Abbey connected with the palace, is in ruins: there is, however, a fine gothic window, in the one end, still entire. In the interior, are to be seen the monuments of the dead, reminding us, that the great and the noble return to dust, even as the meanest of the mean.

The picture gallery, where the portraits of the Kings and Queens are preserved, is in the palace. In a few adjoining rooms, are seen some scripture pieces:—and then visitors are shewn into the state room. In this ancient seat of royalty, the ex-King of France took up his abode, when lately in Edinburgh.

The apartments of the Duke of Hamilton, as hereditary keeper, occupy the other part of the buildings. Here we behold quite a contrast to what we have just noticed. Before, we were in apartments, and surrounded by furniture and other relics, that belonged to former generations, and that reminded us

of the dead ;—now we find ourselves among the living, and are invited to survey the productions of modern fashion. How fickle and changeable is fashion ! What is now accounted fashionable, and admired as such, will soon be spurned at as quite the reverse.

The College is a spacious and beautiful modern edifice. It consists of a large square, enclosed on all sides by buildings. The side on the left, as you enter, contains the library ; that on the right, consists of class rooms ; and the one opposite the entrance, contains the museum, and apartments connected with it. During winter, nearly two thousand students attend the various classes, literary, philosophical, theological, and medical. Many medical students, however, attend private lecturers. For this, and other reasons, the students attending the University, are not quite so numerous as they were ; and, if the dissenters form a seminary of their own, as they are proposing to do, the numbers attending all the Scottish Universities will be considerably diminished. Any student may have a volume out of the Library, by depositing a pound as security, which is repaid at the close of the session.

The Museum is a place of great interest ; and, since the reduction of the price of admission from half a crown to one shilling, has been very numerously visited. The collection, consisting of stuffed animals, both birds and quadrupeds ; minerals, shells, and other curiosities, seems very extensive. One forms a much more correct idea of the appearance of any animal from seeing it stuffed, than from the most accurate plate. Museums ought to be much frequented. By exhibiting specimens of some of the most wonderful of the Creator's works, drawn together too from the most distant parts of the globe, they powerfully tend to expand the views, and generate a taste for the study of such productions as furnish striking illustrations of the divine perfections. The principal room is spacious, lofty, and in the highest degree elegant ; while the arrangement of the cases is admirable. The higher part of the room contains the stuffed birds, and is accessible by a gallery surrounding the apartment.

The Surgeons' Hall, which is situated not far from the college, is an elegant and extensive building. It is frequented by medical students, and contains within it what is not

agreeable to every visitor. The promotion of medical science, however, renders the dissection of the dead indispensably necessary.

George Heriot's Hospital is a very large and antique building. It is situated a little to the west of the college, and was founded by him whose name it bears. Heriot was a goldsmith, and is said to have made or increased his fortune, by purchasing, at a trifling price, a quantity of earth, which had been brought by some foreign vessel to Leith, as ballast, and thrown out as of no value; but which he recognized as gold dust. The ground connected with it has, of late years, greatly increased in value, and brought large sums as building sites. It is hence a very rich establishment; — so much so, that, for some time past, there has been an annual surplus, after paying all expenses, of nearly three thousand pounds. In consequence of this, Mr. Mc. Laren, a very able member of the town council, and for some years city treasurer, moved the governors to apply to Parliament, for an act authorizing them to devote the surplus funds to the erection and endowment of schools, in different parts of the town, for the purpose of furnishing free

education to the youth of Edinburgh generally. By the deed of the founder, the institution is placed under the management of the town council and city clergy, as Governors. It has been productive of very great benefit:—it boards and educates from one to two hundred boys. There are other similar institutions in Edinburgh; such as, Watson's Hospital, and the Merchant Maidens' Hospital. The former is at a short distance from Heriot's;—the latter is intended for the benefit of young females, who are daughters, or grand-daughters, of merchant burghesses in Edinburgh.

The Parliament Square is another interesting place. The Scottish Parliament was wont to assemble in the large hall, in one of the corners of this square, and which is still called the parliament house. Within it, and the modern buildings, immediately adjoining, the Courts of Justice meet.

Before leaving the old town, I may notice Arthur's Seat, and Salisbury Crags. These are high hills situate on the south-east of the old town. Arthur's Seat is the higher of the two, and commands a delightful and extensive view, embracing several counties. At the bottom of the hill, there is a remark-



able echo, which is produced by the sound of the voice striking on the surrounding rocks, or some other opposing objects, and being thus thrown back to the ear. Those who wish for a short explanation of an echo, may consult Joyce's Dialogues on the Sciences; and to know in what part of the world there are singular echoes, may read that interesting work, *Natural Magic*, by Sir David Brewster, which forms one of the volumes of the Family Library.

After crossing the South, North, and Waterloo bridges, you come to the Calton hill, on which are to be seen several objects of considerable interest. There are several monuments. The oldest, loftiest, and most conspicuous, is that erected to the memory of Lord Nelson; a name of the greatest celebrity in the naval history of Britain. A female resides at the foot of the monument; a winding staircase conducts to the top, which, from its great elevation, commands a very extensive view. At a short distance, there are other two monuments, erected to the memory of Professors Stewart and Playfair; and another further down the hill, to that of Robert Burns, the famous Scotch poet. These are of much more elegant

architecture than that of Nelson ; but by no means so lofty. Dugald Stewart long sat in the chair of moral philosophy, while Playfair held that of natural philosophy ; and both were bright ornaments to their country. Burns, though originally an illiterate ploughman, discovered great poetical genius ; but it is to be lamented, that his great natural gifts had not received a better direction. Robert Pollok, author of the *Course of Time*, whose talents were consecrated to the service of religion, is worthy of higher honours.

A Camera obscura next claims to be noticed. When you enter the room, you behold a white table : — upon it you fix your eyes, and, when the shutters are closed so as to exclude the light, you see the several parts of the city pass before the eye in succession. An exhibition of statuary is also to be seen on the hill. The artist's name is Forrest. The execution was certainly admirable. Among many other figures, both on horseback and on foot, were to be seen those of the Duke of Marlborough, Mary Queen of Scots, Tam o' Shanter, and Souter Johnie, along with wee Davock, three of Burns' characters ; Dr. Andrew Thompson,

an eloquent and talented clergyman of the national church, and one of the greatest controversialists of his day; and, to mention another, Lord Byron, the poet.

A national monument, of a very superb description, was begun here some years ago; but, after the erection of eight very massy and lofty columns, which must have cost some thousands, it has been dropped for want of funds.

Towards the foot of the hill, and not far from Burns' monument, stands the new High School, a very elegant building, with extensive playgrounds, erected about eight years ago. I happened to be in Edinburgh at the time of its being opened, and enjoyed the pleasure of witnessing the procession, from a window in Prince's Street. The scholars assembled in the old building, situate in the old town, not far from the College; and walked in procession to the new erection, protected from the crowd by a party of horsemen, and each having a piece of green oak in his breast. — The Jews have a place of interment on the hill: — their synagogue is in the old town. — Bridewell and the Jail are situated in Waterloo Place, at the foot of the Calton hill. None are admitted to see

the interior of these establishments, without a magistrate's order. In entering the former, you see the prisoners through narrow openings, while they cannot see you. They are not allowed to remain idle ;—each has a cell allotted to him or her, for there are to be seen prisoners of both sexes ; while some are condemned to hard labour on the treadmill. The Jail is intended for persons guilty of more aggravated crimes. Here also, those imprisoned for debt are kept. I likewise observed several boys. The place of execution, when any criminal is capitally convicted, is in the High Street, where the old jail, alias “The Heart of Mid Lothian,” stood. Hence the name which Sir Walter Scott has given to one of his novels. What vast multitudes assemble, to look at a poor culprit when in the hands of the executioner ! How can any behold such a mournful spectacle with complacency !

In passing along the street, on your way from the jail, the Post-office, a noble looking building, is seen on the left. It has a wide piazza, or covered court, in front. No letter is delivered on the sabbath, unless it be called for. A little further along, opposite the end of the North bridge, stands the

**Register-office ; — a very spacious and conspicuous building, in which all sorts of documents relating to Scottish property are kept.**

**We also visited the Panorama, where an hour may be very agreeably spent. In entering, we considered the place extremely dark, in consequence of the sudden transition from the full light of day without, to the much fainter light within. The views were those of the city of New York, Jerusalem, and the Polar Regions, as described by Captain Ross. By means of machinery, they were made to pass before the eye in slow progression, from the left to the right ; — the part of the view retiring becoming gradually fainter, while that approaching grows in brightness till placed fully before the spectator. At the west end of Prince's Street stands St. John's Chapel, — a building at once large and of the most beautiful Gothic architecture. In the end, is a window of large dimensions, consisting of beautifully stained glass, with portraits of several saints. To the south of this superb chapel, the Diorama is situated. When I visited it, I saw a view of St. Cloud, with Paris in the distance. It is impossible to conceive a more complete representation of the original : —**

the deception is perfect — it would be difficult to convince a person awaking from his sleep, with views thus exhibited before him, that he was looking only on painted canvas. The attendant, who was somewhat loquacious, remarked, that a gentleman who had lately seen St. Cloud, stated that the representation was very correct.

The Botanical garden ought to be visited by every stranger. It can boast of a large green-house, containing a rich collection of exotic plants. There is also a lecture room, where students assemble in the morning, to receive instructions in the science of botany.

About six miles south-east from Edinburgh, lies the town of Dalkeith, which is connected with the former by a railway. This town is famous for being the principal residence of the Duke of Buccleuch. He is said to be a very wealthy nobleman. The palace is a fine ancient building. Here George the Fourth resided, during a great part of the time he spent in Scotland: — his levees, however, were held in Holyrood house. The Duke was pointed out to me, dressed in his uniform, at the turn out of the yeomanry on Portobello sands above alluded to. I may mention an interesting

occurrence which lately happened to the Duchess, though to many it may not be altogether new. She, with a small party, had ascended Ben Nevis, one of the highest mountains in Scotland — a Scotch mist suddenly arose and enveloped the party with its dense vapours, so as to exclude from their view all surrounding objects. The guide not being sufficiently skilful, lost his way; so that they would have perished, had not a messenger been despatched to find out where they were, by sounding a horn or trumpet, and thus were they rescued from imminent peril.

The Martyrs' tomb is in the Greyfriars church-yard. (*See Frontispiece.*) The place where their mangled bodies were deposited, and still lie, awaiting the resurrection of the just, is enclosed by a railing. A figure of a book, made of stone, intended I presume to represent the bible, for whose truths they contended and suffered, is placed open against the wall, with the following inscription: —  
 “How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth!”

At Stockbridge, which, though formerly a rural village, may now be considered part

of the city, there is a beautiful walk, by the side of a small stream called the Water of Leith, which after driving several mills falls into Leith harbour. At the distance of a few minutes walk from the principal street, which crosses this water by a bridge, there is a medicinal well, surmounted by a temple, with an image representing the Goddess Hygiæa in the interior.



## CHAPTER IV.

*Passage to Dundee—Some account of the town—Arbroath—Arrival at Montrose—Description of the town—Excursion into the country—North Esk—Den of Fenella—Cascade—Grampians—Lawrencekirk—Fettercairn—Agreeable entertainment in the Inn—Blind Peter, an interesting character—Castle of Balbegie—Estate of Burns—Arrival at Brechin, and return to Montrose—Scotch marriage ceremonies—Funerals—Horticultural society—Aberdeen—Return to Leith by Cupar and Kirkcaldy—Stirling—Kinross—Loch Leven, with its Castle, in which Queen Mary was imprisoned—Return to Whitby—Conclusion.*

Having thus very agreeably spent some time in Edinburgh, I embarked on board a steamer for Dundee, which is fifty miles distant from the metropolis by water, and forty by land. The Forth steamers receive and disembark their passengers at what is called the chain pier, which is composed of iron rods, suspended between pillars placed at certain intervals; and, in consequence of its projecting a long way into the sea, gives sufficient depth of water for vessels even at ebb tide. It is situated somewhat less than two miles west from Leith, and close upon the fishing town of Newhaven. From this we started at an early hour for Dundee, and

had a delightful sail. In coasting along the county of Fife, which lies on the north of the Forth, a number of small towns appear, at some of which the steamer touches : — these give variety to the scene. In the course of six hours, we arrived at Dundee, which is situated on the north side of the estuary of the Tay. The scenery on the banks of this river, in sailing up to Perth, is highly picturesque. I spent half a day in Dundee, but could not enjoy myself, in consequence of the unfavourable state of the weather. It is called, in vernacular phrase, “bonnie Dundee.” This is more applicable to its situation, than to the town itself. The old part of it has a very inferior appearance; there are, however, some very fine looking streets lately built, one of which is called Reform Street. Dundee has long been the seat of radicalism, and is so large as to have the privilege of sending a member to parliament. Near to the market place, there is a large church. In the evening, when the weather began to clear, I took a walk along the bank of the Tay, and enjoyed its picturesque scenery.

New and extensive docks have been lately constructed. There is perhaps no port in

the kingdom where the shipping interest is making so rapid progress :—every year adds to the tonnage belonging to the port. Dundee is likely to become one of the chief commercial towns, and already holds a high place. Observing one of the London steamers alongside the pier, I went on board. The cabin was fitted up in a style of the greatest elegance ; and the tables were embellished with evergreens and fragrant flowers. It is surprising how such costly vessels can remunerate their proprietors. The great number of steamers, that ply to all parts of the kingdom, shews that the inhabitants of Britain are no recluses ; but must make many a trip, either for pleasure or business ; disdaining to dwell always amid their native acres, or the smoke of their native towns. This indicates a great commercial nation, and is greatly conducive to general improvement.

On leaving Dundee, I proceeded next to Montrose by land, that I might have an opportunity of seeing a little of the north of Scotland. Nothing interesting occurred till I reached Arbroath—a considerable sea port town, about seventeen miles from Dundee. Like the latter, it is also prospering as a

commercial town. It contains a great many spinning manufactories, while its harbour is too small for the number of vessels belonging to it. A railway, which was constructing when I passed between this town and Dundee, has, I understand, been lately opened, and is now in full and advantageous operation, both for the proprietors and the public.

I at last reached Montrose, where I took up my residence for some time. It is a very clean sea port town, — prettily situated, amidst picturesque scenery. It is almost surrounded by water. It is entered on the south side by a chain bridge; I did not, however, see the latter to advantage, on account of its undergoing repairs. Being considered insecure in its present state, it is intended to strengthen it by an additional chain. The principal street was under a process of macadamizing, when I saw it. Montrose has a very large church, capable of accommodating three thousand sitters. The spire is richly ornamented, and is said to be the loftiest in Scotland. Close to it, is a public building, containing a commodious newsroom, a library, and other apartments. The coast road to Aberdeen and the north passes through the town; hence,

coaches, between Edinburgh and the last mentioned town, are constantly passing and repassing. The places of worship are well attended. In addition to the parish church, Montrose has a chapel of ease ; two chapels belonging to the united Secession, and two Episcopalian chapels :—the Independents, Methodists, and Baptists, have also each a chapel. The last mentioned denomination have a blind gentleman for their pastor. It is said, that he has a wonderful command of language in his discourses. There is a hillock close to the river, where a discourse is delivered to the seamen in the sabbath evening, by one of the ministers in the town. The links, or town common, is very extensive, stretching several miles along the shore ; and is of considerable breadth. Here gentlemen play at golf.

Having, along with the kind friend with whom I resided during my stay at Montrose, engaged a gig, we proceeded on a short excursion around the neighbourhood. The morning was remarkably fine ; the grey clouds spread themselves over the face of the heavens, and, by counteracting the rays of the sun, imparted to the day that agreeable freshness and salubrity, that arises from

the equal blending of light and shade. We started about seven o'clock, proceeding on the Aberdeen road. The exit strikes a stranger as being very fine : — the road, for at least a mile, being one straight line ; the footpaths neatly formed, and kept in good repair ; and, for the distance of three miles, it passes through the links. An individual less observant of the surface of the earth than a geologist, would immediately detect this spot as having at one time formed part of the ocean ; for, in many places, there are extensive ridges composed of stones rounded by the action of water, besides being mixed with shells similar to those found on the adjoining coast. About two miles from Montrose, upon an eminence, stands the house of C——n, the history of whose late proprietor furnishes a striking illustration of the effects of gambling. Entering upon a property producing an income of £16000 a year, free of all incumbrances, in the course of five years, he was so reduced, by gambling and horse racing, that his valuable property has passed into the hands of another, while he occupies the situation of a writer's clerk in Edinburgh. At the distance of about three miles from Montrose, we arrived at a

river called the north Esk, which forms the boundary between the counties of Forfar and Kincardine. This river, which is somewhat larger than the Esk at Whitby, rises in a beautiful valley embosomed in the Grampian mountains, and which is hence called Glenesk. Throughout its course, the Esk presents every variety of scenery, from the most romantic, the wildest and the most rugged, to the most picturesque and most highly cultivated. On crossing the bridge, we entered Kincardineshire. Here the ground rises, and becomes more unequal in its surface ; while, close to the shore, are to be seen precipitous cliffs, somewhat resembling those at Lyth. There was nothing worthy of observation as we proceeded, until we arrived at a distance of seven miles from Montrose, where we reached the den of Fenella, — a beautiful and romantic glen, exceedingly narrow, the cliffs on either side rising almost perpendicularly to a height of nearly one hundred feet, while the breadth at the bottom does not exceed fifteen. Here the road crosses the den by means of a bridge of one arch. There is also a cascade of about sixty feet in height, which, when viewed from the bottom, presents a very beautiful

appearance; especially when the rivulet is enlarged by heavy rains. This den derives its name from the daughter of the Earl of Angus, who, as tradition affirms, was married to Kenneth the Fourth, and with her own hand effected his assassination. Having been pursued to this place, she suffered the punishment of her crime, by being put to death. Having taken a hasty view of the den, we retraced our way, for about a quarter of a mile, and then crossed what are called the Garvoch hills. The road was very indifferent, while the face of the country presented a striking contrast to that which we had lately passed. The far distant Grampians at length became visible, with their huge excrescences of rock; but even the magnificence of this scene dwindled into insignificance, compared with the splendid panorama that burst upon our view, when we gained the summit of the ridge.

The sun, which had been struggling to penetrate the grey covering, which had hitherto concealed the heavens as with a mantle, after emitting occasional gleams, now burst forth in full splendour, as if to impart a richer grandeur to the scenery that now presented itself. Our spirits, which had



begun to sink from the influence of the dull atmosphere, and the dreary region through which we had just passed, seemed to rise in proportion as the blue Grampians unfolded themselves. We at last obtained a full view, not only of the summits of these mountains, as if lifting their heads to the clouds, but also of their base, beautifully encircled by the richest verdure. We now pulled the reins, and remained fixed in contemplation on the magnificent scene before us. Here we sat at our ease, upon an eminence several hundred feet above the level of the sea, and forming the eastern boundary of the valley of Strathmore. As far as the eye could reach, was to be seen one level plain, studded with farm houses and fields, with the hedge rows in the full blossom of a propitious summer ; while, here and there, as if to diversify the prospect, were seen the seats of many of the Scottish aristocracy, together with a few of the baronial residences of olden time, dilapidated and forsaken, and scarcely affording shelter to the owl or the raven. Immediately below us, and on the eastern side of the valley, lay the village of Lawrencekirk, a place celebrated for the manufacture of snuff-boxes of beautiful workmanship. The

village is of modern origin, having been founded by a late Lord of session, remarkable for his eccentricities. In the hall, close to the principal inn, there are the portraits of several of the first inhabitants, taken at the request and expense of the founder.

We now proceed on our way to Fettercairn. The road is excellent, and the sides adorned with laburnums planted at regular distances, whose depending yellow flowers formed a sort of archway. But who is this we see before us, with a scarlet jacket and hunting cap? Is it a sportsman preparing for the chase? It is not yet shooting season, and it is too far advanced for that of fox-hunting. The rattling of our gig caused him to look round, and we recognized the good humoured highland face of honest John Gow, the landlord of the Forbes Arms of Fettercairn. Here we stopt for an hour or two, to survey the surrounding scenery, and get our spirits revived by the humorous and social qualities of our host. No sooner did we enter the inn, than our ears were saluted with the spirit stirring notes of the Scotch bugle, in an adjoining room, whose dulcet sounds testified that it was played by no unskilful hand. The musician was a

grandnephew of the famous Neal Gow. In this apartment there were several musical instruments lying about : — we asked him to favour us with a specimen of his performance on the violin, — a request no sooner made than complied with ; when our ears were gratified with some of Scotia's sweetest strains, evincing a skill almost unrivalled even by Paganini himself. The pibroch, or bagpipe, the national instrument of the Gael, is next produced : the wind bag is filled, and the hoarse sound of the drone grates upon the ear. Soon, however, does the skill of the player bring forth the most spirit stirring notes, by playing the Jacobite air

“ Cam ye by Athol, lad wi the philibeg,  
Doon by the Tummel, and banks of the Gary ? ”

We have often heard of the influence which this national music exerts over the spirits of the hardy Caledonian amidst the roar of battle ; and truly its wild and warlike notes are of a very spirit stirring character.

I may here give some short description of a very interesting character, who resides in this vicinity, known by the name of blind Peter. This individual has been blind from his birth, and, though destitute of the sense

of sight, he possesses that of touch in the highest perfection. Being by trade a cabinet maker, he has this sense so exquisitely fine, that he is able to give to the various articles which he manufactures, such a finish as to equal those made by his more favoured brothers in trade. He also acts as a turner, and supplies the surrounding country with various necessary utensils. He is unrivalled in the manufacture of wooden punch bowls, and toddy ladles ; but what is most pleasing to notice is, that he is esteemed as a man of strict religious principle, and extensive general information.

Fettercairn lies at the base of the Grampians, upon the boundary between the Highlands and Lowlands. After leaving the village, we passed the Castle of Balbegie, the residence of Fenella, the assassinator of Kenneth ; there is nothing remarkable in its appearance. The country is very beautiful as we proceed, and its lovely scenery begins to crowd upon our view as we approach the Gannochbridge, about five miles from Fettercairn. Two miles from this place, we enter upon the estate of Burns, formerly the property of Lord Adam Gordon, to whom it is indebted for the celebrity it has acquired.

The walk which passes through the grounds is most picturesque, and the scenery at the side of the rivulet becomes increasingly interesting, till nature is seen in all its grandeur. When our imaginations had been feasted with this sublime scenery, and our minds filled with admiration of the greatness of its divine Author, of whom the rolling year is full, and the glory of whose perfections is especially displayed in summer, when all nature is active, and sends forth a continued hymn of praise to the Living God; we returned to the inn, and partook of some refreshments. We then rode to Brechin, and, after taking tea with an aged gentleman, we got into our gig, and reached Montrose at nine o'clock in the evening.

I had an opportunity of witnessing a Scotch marriage, when residing in Montrose. In Scotland, the marriage ceremony is usually performed, not in any place of worship, but in the house of the bride. There is no particular time of the day allotted for tying the matrimonial knot;—the hour being fixed according to the choice or convenience of the parties. All the relatives of the young couple are generally invited to be present. The minister, in the first place, sees the

certificates of proclamation ;—he then commences the service by engaging in prayer, and addresses a short discourse to the young pair in reference to the duties incumbent on those in the married state. Each of the parties is attended by a select unmarried friend :—the bride's attendant is, according to the national phrase, called the *best maid* ; while that of the bridegroom is termed the *best man*. When the minister desires the parties to join hands, it belongs to the best maid to pull the glove from the hand of the bride ; while it is the duty of the best man to perform the same office to the bridegroom. After holding each other by the right hand, during which time the minister asks the bridegroom if he is willing to take this woman, whose hand he now holds, to be his wife, and puts a corresponding question to the bride, the parties are declared to be married. The minister then shakes hands with them, and wishes them much joy, and in this is followed by all the company. Should a younger brother be married first, the elder acts as best man ; and, by way of penalty, I suppose, for his bachelorism, is required to furnish a little sport to the company, by spinning with the

distaff. This, however, forms no part of the ceremony. The ring in Scotland is not used in the service; but after the wedding is over, the husband presents the marriage ring to the wife as a pledge of his affection. I prefer, however, the beautiful service of the church of England.

If a wedding in Scotland is so simple, a funeral is more so. I had an opportunity of observing one in the church yard. No female is seen following a beloved relative to the final resting place — no bell is tolled to inform the inhabitants that another citizen has departed, and is on the eve of being consigned to the silent tomb. I ought to remark, however, that this is done at the funerals in some parishes, but the exceptions are few. No beautiful service is read over the remains of the deceased, to impress the minds of the living. The corpse is conveyed to the church yard in solemn silence, and always in a black coffin, ornamented with silver coloured trimming, if the deceased has been unmarried, and black or gold coloured, if married. On being brought to the grave, it is slowly and solemnly deposited in the narrow bed by the nearest relatives, by means of six black cords — one being attached to the head,

another to the foot, and two at each side of the coffin, by means of handles of the same colour as the trimming. The nearest relative, such as a husband, a father, or eldest son, as the case may be, takes the cord at the head; the next of kin takes hold of the one opposite the right shoulder; and so of the rest; the most distant relative taking that at the foot. So soon as the coffin is thus solemnly deposited, and the last look taken of the dear remains, or rather of the external covering, the grave digger and his assistants proceed immediately to replace the earth, — the company standing with their hats off. It is considered not respectful to leave the grave, until the sexton has finished his work, by placing on the top the green turf. The nearest relative then bows to the company, who all disperse. I ought to observe that, though there is no funeral service at the grave, yet it is common for the clergyman to offer up a solemn and impressive prayer in the house, immediately before removing the coffin.

The only time I had an opportunity of seeing a company in their fine apparel, was at a show of the Horticultural Society. I went into the apartment, without knowing



whither I was going, or what was to be seen. Seeing several beaux and belles enter a public building, I thought to myself, "There must be something going on here":—I followed, and soon found myself in a large room, decorated with evergreens, while the table was filled with flowers and fruit, and the orchestra with a band of musicians.

The house in which the famous Marquis of Montrose was born, has been taken down. In it the Pretender slept on the thirteenth of February, the night before he escaped in a French frigate. I was extremely sorry to find, that the building was removed; because the traveller feels a peculiar interest in objects associated with important events in history, and especially in that of his native country.—A ferryboat is provided for the convenience of those who do not choose to go along the suspension bridge. It is let to one individual, who pays a large rent for it, no other being allowed to ply.—About three miles from Montrose, at the extremity of *the sands*, there is a hill or rising ground, on the top of which stands the village of St. Cyrus, where the Rev. Dr. Keith, author of the work on Prophecy, resides. I had a sail along with a few friends up *the basin*: we

found it in some places very shallow. At the extremity stands a house, known by the name of Old Montrose. We expected to have our sense of taste gratified here, with a treat of strawberries, but were disappointed. We saw, however, in a part of the garden, a box full of bees, having a pane of glass, through which we observed the industrious little insects busily employed in constructing their cells. We returned to Montrose in the evening.

I spent a night in the town of Aberdeen, which is about twenty-seven miles from Montrose. My short stay in this ancient town, prevents me from giving more than a few brief notices respecting it. Aberdeen can boast of having one of its streets built of granite, a beautiful speckled and very hard stone, which abounds in the county, and which is also extensively used in paving the streets of London. The street has a very superb appearance. Wishing to call upon a friend, I rung the bell at what I thought to be the door of his house:—not understanding the servant, who spoke in the Aberdeen dialect, I followed her into the parlour; but, to my astonishment, I perceived a stranger, seated at a table, examin-

ing a bundle of papers. I found myself somewhat in a dilemma. I could not retreat:—but having explained matters, and mentioned the name of the person I was in pursuit of, the gentleman kindly informed me where he lived, by pointing out the door, which was not far distant. I found myself again disappointed, for I was informed that my friend had left home for England. The country between Montrose and Aberdeen presents nothing interesting:—it seems a barren district. The only towns on the road between these two places, are Bervie and Stonehaven; the former lies in a hollow.

In reference to Aberdeen, I would just add, before concluding my brief notice of it, that it consists of old and new Aberdeen, divided by a small river crossed by a bridge. It enjoys great commercial prosperity, if we may judge by its extensive docks and shipping. The old town is the seat of one of the four Scottish Universities, consisting of two Colleges.

Having satisfied my curiosity in reference to the scenery of the North, so far as circumstances would allow, I returned to Edinburgh. I have already noticed the town of Dundee.—During the short time I had to

spend in it, the rain poured down in torrents. Paddy would have hence concluded, that at this town there was constant rain; for it was also raining when I passed it on my way north.

The scenery up the river Tay is most beautiful. At high water, a steamer plies regularly to the pleasant and ancient town of Perth, frequently complimented by the name of the fair city. I should have liked much to have enjoyed a sail up the Tay, and spent a day in Perth; but having no friend to accompany me, I could not think of going alone. On crossing the river at Dundee, where it is about three miles broad, you land in the county of Fife, which seems superior to that of Forfar, on the north of the Tay. Cupar, which is the county town, lies on the road to Edinburgh, about twelve miles from Newport, opposite Dundee. It is a neat clean looking town, is finely situated, and to a stranger presents a very comely appearance. At Cupar we received into the coach a young lady, and a fine youth, who I supposed was her brother. The former possessed a great portion of vivacity, which tended to amuse the more phlegmatic of the passengers. In travelling, the agreeableness

of fellow travellers depends much upon our own behaviour. If we wish others to be agreeable, we must study to be so ourselves.

After passing Dysart and Kirkcaldy, which lie at the mouth of the Forth, or what is called the Firth of Forth, we reached Pettycur, where we got on board a steamer, and in less than an hour reached Newhaven, — the distance across being seven miles : and in another quarter of an hour, we again placed our feet on the streets of the metropolis.

During my stay here, I felt a strong desire to visit Stirling, before returning home. This ancient town, with its stupendous castle, holds a conspicuous place in Scottish history. It is situated near the source of the Forth, which, though seven miles broad at Newhaven, is only a stream at Stirling, where it is crossed by a bridge. In the progress of a river, may be seen a striking emblem of human life. As the former steadily and irresistibly pursues its course, widening as it advances, until it is lost in the ocean; so the latter makes equally incessant and resistless progress, until it is lost in eternity. It may serve also to typify the progress of civilization. As the small and scarcely perceptible stream at first pur-

sues its course through some rugged and barren region, until its waters accumulate by other streamlets falling into it, when it expands and deepens, carries ships on its bosom, beautifies and enriches the landscape, and passes through a fertile country, smiling with cultivated farms, and inhabited by an industrious population; so the rude tribe, small at first, grows and multiplies, until it becomes a civilized nation.

The distance from Edinburgh to Stirling by water, is about sixty miles, though only forty by land. Alloa is one of the towns which lie on the north bank of the river; it is famed for its Ales, some of which I have tasted in Whitby. Alloa is only seven miles distant from Stirling by the road, but owing to the serpentine course of the river, it is twenty miles by water. No Englishman should visit Edinburgh, without taking a trip to Stirling. The Castle, which stands on a lofty and extensive rock, forms the most conspicuous object:—it is seen at a great distance, and of course commands a correspondingly extensive view. The village of Bannockburn, where Edward II was vanquished by the Scots, is only three miles distant, and forms one object of interest to the spectator.

The scenery around Stirling is most charming; so much so, that in order to form an adequate idea of it, it must be seen from the Castle. There is a beautiful green at the bottom of the latter, where the lovers of retirement may enjoy themselves. In the vicinity of the town, the remains of an abbey are to be seen, named Cambuskenneth. The town of Stirling can boast of what, I believe, no other town of Scotland can. It possesses an agricultural museum. One of the curiosities shown in it is, a churn moved by a dog.

I felt it gratifying to my English feelings, to observe that there were some in Stirling capable of appreciating our liturgy; for I there observed an episcopalian chapel, from which I inferred there must be a congregation.

On my return to Edinburgh, I next visited Kinross, a town twenty miles north from the metropolis, on the Perth road. I crossed the Forth at what is called the Queensferry, in honour of Margaret Queen of Scots. — It is eight miles west of Edinburgh. After crossing, we passed Inverkeithing, to which a number of the citizens resort to spend a few weeks or months in summer.

Loch Leven, with its castle in the centre, lies on the south-east side of Kinross, close upon the town. In this castle, Queen Mary was imprisoned ;— a circumstance which has given it not a little celebrity. There is a tree close to the ruins, which is said to have been planted by Mary's own hand. The Loch, or Lake, boasts of containing eleven islands, while eleven kinds of fish swim in its waters :— it is eleven miles round, — it is encircled by eleven hills, is fed by eleven streams, and belongs to eleven proprietors. Did this give rise to its name ?

I again returned to Edinburgh, and, after two days, left it with my friends in a Hull steamer ; and, in the course of seventeen hours, we were landed at Whitby, and found ourselves again in the bosom of our friends. I pass no eulogium on my kind friends in Edinburgh :— I know they do not wish it : but this I cannot help saying, that, wherever I took up my residence, I met with the greatest kindness, while every thing was done to make me comfortable.

Retirement is sweet after a bustle, and where can it be enjoyed better than among those whom we love ? Without objects on whom the affections may rest, and the heart



find repose, there can be no real happiness, whether we travel amid cultivated countries, or on barren shores. But the man that respects, esteems, and loves those around him, is happy, even amid poverty and indigence; for he finds solace for his griefs in the exercise of his affections.

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